

SPRING BUTTERFLIES FROM THE GREEK ISLANDS OF PAROS AND SIPHNOS

By JOHN G. COUTSIS*

The island of Paros is situated in the Aegean sea, at a latitude of about 25 degrees North and belongs to a group of islands known as the Cyclades. Its area is approximately 195 square kilometres and its highest peak, known by the name of Aghios Ilias, has an altitude of 746 metres. Its distance from Mainland Greece is close to 120 kilometres, whilst its distance from the two islands closest to it, Naxos and Antiparos, is about seven and one and a half kilometres respectively.

Paros is rather dry and rocky, with a low rainfall and very little running water. Only certain areas in the north of the island are fairly flat and somewhat intensely cultivated, the rest being mainly characterized by the presence of garrigue (phrygana), which tends towards maquis along the lower reaches of ravines and gulleys. Sizeable olive groves are also present in more or less wind-protected areas.

The butterflies recorded on Paros were, as expected, few in species, but surprisingly many in individuals, quite in contrast with the island of Siphnos (Coutsis, 1978), where butterflies were found to be rather a rare sight.

Collecting was carried out between 22nd and 28th April 1981 and the following butterflies were recorded:

Papilionidae

1. *Papilio machon* Linnaeus
In fair numbers and generally distributed.
2. *Iphiclides podalirius* Linnaeus
Quite common and generally distributed.

Pieridae

3. *Pieris brassicae* Linnaeus
Very common everywhere.
4. *Euchloe ausonia* Huebner

Generally distributed, but most common near Aghios Minas. All specimens were of the so called first brood. Some individuals quite large and with extensive yellow suffusion on HW underside, but with nacreous spots. A single aberrant female with large black, fuzzy-edged, blotch, in place of usual FW discoidal spot.

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5. *Colias crocea* Fourcroy

Generally distributed and common.

6. *Gonepteryx cleopatra* Linnaeus

In fair numbers, near Aghios Minas and near Lefkes. All specimens worn and almost without doubt from hibernation. All the females recorded were of the greenish-white morph.

Lycaenidae7. *Callophrys rubi* Linnaeus

Locally in fair numbers. Recorded from Voutakou and from near Aghios Minas.

8. *Lycaena phlaeas* Linnaeus

Local but quite common. Recorded from Voutakou and both from near Lefkes and Aghios Minas.

9. *Celastrina argiolus* Linnaeus

A single specimen recorded from near Lefkes.

10. *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda

Found in fair numbers in places where *Calicotome villosa* Poiret (Spiny broom) grows; perhaps this association denotes that this is a larval food-plant for *alexis*.

The recorded specimens were never as large as some of the larger individuals captured on Mainland Greece. Males upperside with relatively narrow black marginal borders, females entirely black. Underside of both sexes very often without postdiscal black spots on HW.

11. *Pseudophilotes vicrama schiffermuelleri* Hemming

Locally in fair numbers. Mostly near Aghios Minas.

12. *Polyommatus icarus* Rottemburg

Locally quite common. Recorded from Voutakou and both from near Lefkes and Aghios Minas.

Nymphalidae13. *Vanesa atalanta* Linnaeus

A few recorded from near Lefkes.

14. *Cynthia cardui* Linnaeus

Very common in all localities visited.

15. *Polygonia egea* Cramer

One recorded from near Lefkes and another from Parikia.

Satyridae16. *Maniola jurtina* Linnaeus

Generally distributed and common. Large specimens; males most often with orange-brown markings on FW upperside. Females near form *fortunata* Alpheraky, brightly coloured and with much extended orange-brown markings above.

17. *Lasiommata megera* Linnaeus

A single specimen recorded from near Parikia.

Hesperiidae18. *Carcharodus alceae* Esper

In fair numbers near Lefkes and near Aghios Minas.

19. *Thymelicus acteon* Rottemburg

A single male captured in Voutakou, at sea level.

20. *Gegenes pumilio* Hoffmannsegg

A few males captured on the stony bottom of a ravine, near Lefkes. Identification confirmed by the genitalia.

During a second visit to the island of Siphnos in April 1979 the following two species were recorded that had not been included in my previous list of 1978: *Papilio machaon* and *Gegenes pumilio*, both captured near Chrysopighi.

References

- Coutsis, J. G. 1978. Spring butterflies on the Greek island of Siphnos. *Entomologists's Rec.* **90**: 300-301.
Higgins, L. G. and Riley, N. D. 1980. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe*. Collins, London.
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THE PALE FORM OF THE PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY: *BOLORIA EUPHROSYNE* L. AB. *PALLIDA* SPULER.—During a short stroll through Parkhurst Forest, Isle of Wight, on May 27 1981, I came upon a clearing where *B. euphrosyne* was flying plentifully, some of which were in fresh condition. After a few minutes I noticed a very pale example which immediately flew away rapidly. But it was then getting late so I resolved to return the following day. The next morning, having located the clearing, by a curious coincidence the first *euphrosyne* noted was the pale form and after netting it I saw it was a male ab. *pallida*.—F. H. CLOUTER, Helice, Glendale Road, Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent.